Tourists In the N.E. Region

* 392. SHRI PRAKANTA WARISA: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the number of foreign tourists visiting the North-Eastern Region is decreasing day-by-day; and

(b) if so, the reason therefor?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Funds .to boost tourism in Gujarat

* 393. SHRI BACHANI LEKHRAJ: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the projects approved to boost tourism in Gujarat during the last three years;

(b) the funds allocated and utilised for the purpose; and

(c) the progress made in the completion of projects?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) The Central Department of Tourism provides funds on the basis of projects-prioritised every year in consultation with.the State Government of Gujarat. The following projects were approved for grants-in-aid during the last three years:

Year	No. of projects approved
1998-99	15
1999-2000	19
2000-2001	19

(b) No separate funds are allocated to any State Govemment/UT Administration. However, on the basis of projects prioritised every year in consultation with the States/UTs concerned, project proposals are processed and financial assistance provided on the basis of *inter-se-priority* and subject to availability. The position of funds released during the last years to the State of Gujarat is as under:

(Rupees in lakhs)

Year	Amount sanctioned	Funds released
1998-99	439.57	125.84
1999-2000	327.64	102.42
2000-2001	510.85	152.92

For the year 2001-2002, 19 projects have been prioritised for Rs. 645.00 lakhs.

(c) Implementation and execution of the projects sanctioned by the Central Department of Tourism is the responsibility of the State Government.

CBM reserves in the Country

* 394. SHRI LALITBHAI MEHTA:
SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the reserves of Coal bed Methane area-wise, quantity-wise and in terms of value in each of the States and Union Territories of the country;

(b) whether it is a fact that CBM does not fall within the provisions of MMDR Act, 1957 and Schedule attached thereto;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Gujarat has demanded production level payment of CBM production at 50 per cent of revenue;

(d) whether it is also a fact that since 1992 Government have not